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ART AND PROGRESS

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THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL

For many years a National Memorial to Abraham Lincoln has been discussed. Less than a fortnight ago, as this issue of ART AND PROGRESS was going to press, a bill appointing a Commission to secure plans and designs for such a memorial passed both houses of Congress. This Commission is composed of William H. Taft, President of the United States, Shelby M. Cullom, Joseph G. Cannon, George Peabody Wetmore, Samuel W. McCall, H. D. Money and Champ Clark. It is empowered to procure and determine upon a location, plan, and design for a monument or memorial in the city of Washington, subject to the approval of Congress, and is authorized to

employ the services of such artists, sculptors, architects, and others as it shall determine necessary, and to avail itself of the services or advice of the Commission of Fine Arts created by Congress last year. Two million dollars is named as the maximum cost of the memorial and fifty thousand dollars is directly appropriated to defray the necessary expenses of the Commission. The only question now will be the selection of site and design. The site, moreover, has already been indicated by the Park Commission in its plan for the development of Washington which has received almost universal endorsement. This site is on the river front at the eastern end of the proposed Memorial Bridge and on the axis of the Washington Monument and the Capitol. Here the Lincoln Memorial would have magnificent setting and appropriate importance. This land, furthermore, already belongs to the Government. Without question this site will be proposed and urged by artistic bodies. Three members of the Commission—Mr. Cannon, Mr. McCall, and Mr. Cullom—were responsible for the bill introduced into Congress two years ago, authorizing the erection of the Lincoln Memorial on Capitol Hill adjacent to the Pennsylvania Railroad plaza. The only cogent influence which can be brought to bear upon the Commission is public opinion. By this it must be guided. Here is an instance where the best expert advice should be sought and followed. To have politics or partisanship enter into the erection of a memorial to Lincoln would be a national disgrace. Such a memorial must be worthy both of the Nation and of the man it commemorates.

MUSEUMS FOR THE PEOPLE

The success attending Minneapolis's effort to establish an Art Museum is significant and stimulating. If a month's campaign were sufficient to obtain both a site and building fund for this purpose in Minneapolis, in other cities of similar size and wealth such a thing should not be counted an impossibility. What Minneapolis has done every city can